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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

TO: Intermediate School District Superintendents

FROM: Jeremy M. Hughes, Ph.D. *JMH*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

DATE: November 10, 2005

SUBJECT: National Governor's Association Honors State Program

The National Governor's Association (NGA) awarded an Honors State Grant to the Governor's Office and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) in July 2005. The grant specifies two major activities. One activity will revise high school content standards, create a variety of ways to use these standards (by course, integrated sequentially, or as end-of-high-school expectations), publish and disseminate the standards, and provide professional development to ensure effective implementation. The second activity will focus on increasing early college learning opportunities by engaging a nationally known consulting firm with knowledge of dual enrollment and other credit-based transition programs to work with a state interagency team to develop state policies leading to increased student participation in dual enrollment and other college equivalency courses, particularly among students from high priority schools.

MDE has partnered effectively with ISD/ESAs to coordinate grant activities and to collaborate on dissemination activities with new state content expectations (i.e., K-8 grade level content expectations). In face of the short timeline, lack of ability to carry over funds and limited MDE staff, a partnership is crucial to the success of these grant projects. As a result of these factors, MDE has proposed grant criteria to the State Board of Education so that the NGA funds can be managed by another fiscal agent, in this case an Intermediate School District or Regional Services Agency. Applicants will be responsible for providing oversight and coordination of activities and grant fund distribution similar to other grant projects that have become part of a statewide support system for local school districts. Identified department staff will work collaboratively with the grantee to organize the activities specified in the NGA grant. The grant is for two years for a total of \$1.8 million.

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Eligible applicants must:

- Have experience acting as fiscal agent with MDE dispersing state and/or federal grant funds.
- Have demonstrated ability working within time constraints and meeting deadlines.
- Use a portion (indirect costs amounting to less than 8%) of the grant funds to oversee activities and grant fund disbursement.
- Submit quarterly progress reports to the Office of School Improvement.
- Have experience working in partnership with MDE on other curriculum projects.
- Have experience monitoring contracts for completion of grant work.

Pending State Board of Education approval of the grant criteria, the department would like to advise you of this opportunity so that you might begin thinking about organizing an application.

If you think you might be interested in applying for this grant and would like more information, please contact Dr. Yvonne Caamal Canul, Director, Office of School Improvement, Michigan Department of Education at Canuly@michigan.gov.